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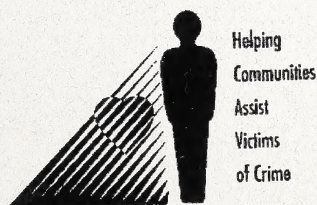
CANADIAN

MAR 23 1998

**VICTIMS' PROGRAMS
ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

1995-96



Alberta
JUSTICE



ALBERTA
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

320 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97th Avenue N.W., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6
Telephone 403/427-2339 Fax 403/422-6621

August 14, 1996

Honourable Stanley Schumacher, Q.C.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have the honour to submit the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1996.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Evans
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
MLA Banff-Cochrane

Att.



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Law Enforcement Division

Victim's Programs
Assistance Committee

10th Floor
John E. Brownlee Building
10365 - 97 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5J 3W7

Telephone 403/427-3460
Fax 403/427-5916

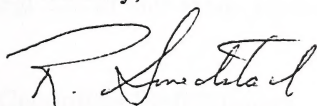
August 14, 1996

Honourable Brian Evans, Q.C.
Minister of Justice
and Attorney General
320 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Evans:

I have the honour to submit the Victims' Programs Assistance Committee Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1996.

Yours truly,



Richard Smedstad
Chairman
Victims' Programs Assistance Committee

Att.

VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE ACT

The *Victims' Programs Assistance Act*, proclaimed January 16, 1991, established the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund and provided for the appointment of a Victims' Programs Assistance Committee.

I. VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

The Victims' Programs Assistance Committee is appointed by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. The Committee makes recommendations on grant applications and programs and services that may benefit victims of crime.

In 1994, the Committee was reduced to four members with two members representing the community at-large, one member representing police and one member representing government. All Committee members were re-appointed for a one-year term expiring April 20, 1996.

Members of the Committee are as follows:

Mr. Richard Smedstad (Chairman) - member at-large, Sherwood Park;

Mrs. Marguerite Duckworth - member at-large, Calgary;

Mr. Peter Teasdale (Alberta Justice) - representing government;

Sgt. Loran Thiemann - representing police.

Committee Staff Support

The Executive Secretary to the Committee is responsible for administrative support and is also Manager, Victims' Programs, Alberta Justice. In this capacity, the Manager works with the Committee, community groups, police and other government departments to develop and implement initiatives designed to benefit victims of crime.

Committee Meetings

The Committee met April 18, 1995 and November 27, 1995. Forty-one grant applications were evaluated by the Committee and thirty-six were approved by the Minister.

II. VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE FUND

Section 2 of the *Act* established the Victims' Programs Assistance Fund into which is deposited money collected from fine surcharges imposed by the courts in Alberta. Under Section 717.9 of the *Criminal Code*, where an offender is convicted or discharged under this *Act*, the *Food and Drugs Act* or the *Narcotic Control Act*, the court imposing sentence on or discharging the offender shall, in addition to any other punishment imposed on the offender, order the offender to pay a fine surcharge in an amount not exceeding 15 percent of any fine or up to \$35 on non-fine dispositions. Also, deposited into the Fund is interest accrued on Fund monies.

Section 6 of the *Act* provides for payments out of the Fund. This includes grants approved by the Minister of Justice, costs incurred by the Committee, remuneration and expenses to persons whose services are engaged by the Minister of Justice and salaries, benefits and other expenditures related to the services of administrators to carry out work required by the Committee.

For further information, please see financial statement (Appendix "A").

III. GRANTS

Grant application deadlines were April 1 and October 1, 1995. Forty-one applications were evaluated by the Committee and thirty-six grants totalling \$811,436 were approved by the Minister of Justice. Successful grant applicants enter into a funding agreement that outlines specific terms and conditions that must be met.

BonnyGrand Victims' Assistance Society

\$29,000

The grant provides funds for costs associated with operating a community-directed victim assistance program. Services that include crisis response and assistance, information and referrals and courtroom orientation and support are provided to victims of crime in Bonnyville, Grand Centre, Cold Lake, Long Lake Cree Nation and Cold Lake First Nation. Other services provided are next-of-kin notification, bereavement support, domestic violence follow-up, exhibit return and suicide prevention.

Evansburg Detachment Victim Services Unit Society **\$20,000**

Funding was provided for costs associated with establishing a community-directed victim assistance program that operates out of the RCMP detachment and provides services to anyone affected by crime and tragedy in the Evansburg RCMP Detachment area.

High River & District Victim Services Association **\$30,000**

The grant provides funds towards a program that continues to provide services to victims of crime in the High River Detachment area and expand services to Turner Valley and Okotoks RCMP Detachment areas.

Lac La Biche Society, Victim Services Unit **\$30,000**

Funding was provided to support the continuation of services to victims of crime in the Lac La Biche RCMP Detachment area.

Peace River Victim Services Society **\$30,000**

The grant provides funds to establish a victim service unit that provides crisis response, information, assistance, property return, referrals and courtroom education and support to victims of crime in the Peace River and Grimshaw RCMP Detachment areas.

Redwater & District Victim Services Society **\$20,000**

The grant funds costs associated with operating a victim service unit that provides crisis response, intervention, information, assistance, referrals and courtroom education and support to victims of crime in the Redwater RCMP Detachment area.

Rocky & District Victim Services Unit **\$30,000**

Funding was provided to establish a community-directed victim assistance program that operates out of the RCMP detachment and provides victims of crime, bereavement and trauma with emotional and practical support in Rocky Mountain House, Leslieville, Nordegg, Alhambra, Condor and the Bighorn, O'Chiese and Sunchild Reserves.

St. Albert Victim Services Association ***\$30,000***

The grant provides funding to a community-directed RCMP-based program that provides services and support to victims of crime in the City of St. Albert.

Slave Lake Victims Services Society ***\$30,000***

The grant provides funding for the operation of a community-directed volunteer victim assistance program that provides services to victims of crime in Slave Lake and Area and to expand services to victims of crime in Joussard, Driftpile, Faust, Swan River Reserve, Kinuso and Swan Valley.

Stony Plain District Victim Services Society ***\$30,000***

The grant provides funds that support the operation of an RCMP-based community-directed volunteer victim assistance program that provides services to victims of crime in the Stony Plain and Spruce Grove RCMP Detachment areas.

Sturgeon Region Victim Services Unit (Morinville) ***\$18,180***

Funding provided supports the continued operation of a victim services program that provides assistance, support and information to victims of crime and tragedy in the Morinville RCMP Detachment area.

Vermilion and Area Victims Assistance Program/Crisis Response Society ***\$29,000***

The grant provides funds to establish a program that will provide services to victims of crime in Vermilion, Kitscoty, Mannville, Derwent, Dewberry, Islay, Clandonald, County of Minburn up to and including the Village of Innisfree, County of Vermilion river including Marwayne and Paradise Valley.

Volunteer Programs Association, Fort Saskatchewan ***\$18,200***

The grant supports a community-directed volunteer program that operates out of the RCMP Detachment and provides assistance to victims of crime and tragedy in the Fort Saskatchewan RCMP Detachment area.

Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse (CCASA)

and

Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE)***\$15,000***

Funds have been provided to both agencies in Edmonton and Calgary to jointly research and explore the issue of reporting of crime by sexual assault victims and to provide a report that includes: an inventory of existing services; a victim satisfaction survey; a community needs assessment and recommendations.

Airdrie & District Victims Assistance Society***\$20,000***

The grant funds operating costs associated with providing services to victims of crime in Airdrie and District.

Athabasca Regional Victim Services Society***\$15,000***

The grant provides funds for a victim services unit that operates from the Athabasca RCMP Detachment and provides services to victims of crime in both the Athabasca and Boyle RCMP Detachment area.

Bow Valley Victim Services Association***\$30,000***

Funding is provided to support the operation of a victim service program that provides services to victims of crime in Banff, Canmore, Lake Louise, Exshaw, Kananaskis, Lac Des Acres, Seebe, Deadman's Flat and Saskatchewan River Crossing.

Breton Detachment Victims Services Society***\$15,000***

The grant provides funds for a community-directed police-based program that provides services to victims of crime in the Breton RCMP Detachment area and explores expanding services to Drayton Valley.

Coaldale Police Victim Assistance Services Association***\$5,000***

The grant provides funds for operating costs associated with a volunteer program that operates from the Coaldale Police facility and provides services to victims of crime in Coaldale.

<i>Drumheller & District Victim Services Association</i>	\$25,000
Funding was provided for a volunteer program that operates out of the RCMP Detachment and provides services to victims of crime in the Drumheller area.	
<i>Edson & District Victim Services Society (EDVSS)</i>	\$25,000
The grant provides funds for a program that provides services to victims of crime in the Edson RCMP Detachment area.	
<i>Fairview Victims Assistance Association (FVAA)</i>	\$10,000
Funding is provided for a community-directed victim services program that operates out of the RCMP Detachment and provides services to victims of crime in the Fairview area.	
<i>Grande Prairie RCMP Victims Assistance Program Association</i>	\$20,000
The grant provides for costs associated with operating a volunteer victim assistance program that provides services to victims of crime in the Grande Prairie and Beaverlodge RCMP Detachment areas.	
<i>Hinton District Victim Services Society</i>	\$20,000
Funding is provided for the operation of a victims' program that includes providing information and assistance to victims of crime in the Hinton RCMP Detachment area.	
<i>Lacombe Victim Services Association</i>	\$20,000
The grant provides funds for costs associated with a community-directed victim assistance program that operates out of the Lacombe Police Service facility.	
<i>Lethbridge Police Service, Victim Services Unit</i>	\$20,000
The grant provides funds for operating costs associated with maintaining Lethbridge Police Services, Victim Services Unit.	

Mayerthorpe Area RCMP Victims' Services Unit Society (MARVSUS) ***\$20,000***

Funding is provided for a community-directed volunteer victim assistance program that operates out of the RCMP Detachment.

Medicine Hat Police Service, Victim Assistance Program ***\$20,000***

The grant provides funds to Medicine Hat Police Service, Victim Services Unit to provide services that include court support and delivering the victim impact statement program and for volunteer training and development.

Northwest Regional Victim's Assistance Society ***\$50,000***

Funding is provided to establish a community-directed, volunteer victims assistance program that operates out of the High Level RCMP Detachment and provides services to victims of crime and trauma in High Level, Rainbow Lake, La Crete, Fort Vermilion, Zama, Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement, Beaver First Nation, Dene Tha' First Nation, Little Red River Cree Nation and Tall Cree First Nation. Additionally, services will be provided to several rural communities including, Rocky Lane, Indian Cabins, Keg River, Carcajou, Blumenort, Tompkins Landing and Buffalo Head Prairie.

Southern Alberta Victims' Assistance Program (SAVA) ***\$55,400***

The grant provides funds for operating costs associated with a community-directed volunteer victim assistance program that provides services to victims of crime in Southern Alberta and operates out of RCMP Detachments in Bow Island, Brooks, Claresholm, Crowsnest Pass, Lethbridge (rural), Milk River, Taber, Cardston and Pincher Creek.

Tofield & Area Victims Services Association ***\$15,000***

Funding is provided for a community-directed victim assistance program that operates out of the Tofield RCMP Detachment and provides services to victims of crime in Tofield and Viking.

Valleyview RCMP Victims Assistance Association **\$20,000**

A grant was provided to establish a community-directed volunteer victim assistance program that operates out of the RCMP Detachment and provides services to victims of crime and tragedy in the Valleyview area.

Westlock Community Victim Services Unit Association **\$15,000**

The grant provides funds for the continued operation of a community-directed RCMP-based program that provides services to victims of crime and tragedy in the Westlock area.

Central Alberta Sexual Assault Centre (CASAC), Red Deer **\$6,656**

Funding is provided for crisis intervention and support services for victims of sexual assault in Central Alberta. Support services provided include court preparation and accompanying the victim to court, to medical facilities and the police.

Edmonton John Howard Society **\$25,000**

The grant provides funds for the continued operation of a court support program for victims of crime in Edmonton. Working with police, prosecutors and other government and community agencies, the program offers orientation, accompaniment and support to victims during their involvement in criminal justice proceedings.

IV. INFORMATION**A. Police-Based Victim Assistance Programs**

In partnership with police services and RCMP detachments, communities have identified a need for programs that provide services to victims of crime and tragedy and have applied for funding. As a result of community support and grants from the Victims' Programs Assistance fund, a network of police-based victim assistance programs have been established throughout Alberta. Prior to January 1991, and the proclamation of the *Victims' Programs Assistance Act*, victim services units had been established in 8 locations. Since proclamation of the Act, 55 programs have been established and provide services to victims of crime in over 90% of the province. (See Appendix "B").

Some of the services provided to victims by these programs include intervention and support, information about their case and criminal justice proceedings, information about medical, legal and social services that offer help, referrals to other community agencies and court assistance and orientation.

Grants to police-based victim assistance programs accounted for 89% of the total grants allocated in 1995-96. Although police-based programs have received funding priority, other groups and organizations that provide services to victims of crime are also eligible to apply for grants.

B. Victim Impact Statement Program

The Victim Impact Statement program provides victims in Alberta an opportunity to have input into sentencing by describing in writing to the courts how they have been affected by the crime. In 1995-96, police services and victim assistance programs provided information about the Victim Impact Statement program to over 6,000 victims of crime. 903 victims chose to complete a Victim Impact Statement and 826 statements were filed with the court.

C. Child Witness Courtroom Preparation Project

In 1994, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General approved a grant that would provide for the development of resources that would assist children who may be required to testify in court. The first phase of the project included a video, *"You're Not Alone"* and a comic book. The second phase included a facilitators' video and manuals. The project was completed in April 1996 and 200 videos and manuals have been distributed to police services, Crown prosecutors' offices and victim assistance programs in the province to be used to help children better understand and cope with courtroom proceedings.

D. Victims' Assistance Coordinators' Training

Victims' Assistance Coordinators' Training was held October 2-6, 1995 and March 18-22, 1996. Training was provided to 48 victim assistance program coordinators and police members at the Alberta Justice Staff College. Eleven program coordinators that participated in the training were from other Western Provinces.

E. Provincial Newsletter

A bi-annual newsletter, *"The Advocate"*, is published by Alberta Justice and distributed to police, Crown prosecutors, Court Services, the judiciary and victim assistance programs. The newsletter provides information about the allocation of grants and information about programs that have been established. As well, the newsletter provides a province-wide network for input, ideas and staff and volunteer recognition.

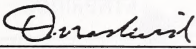
ALBERTA JUSTICE
VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE FUND
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITIES
AS AT MARCH 31, 1996

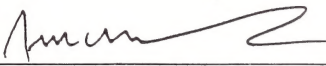
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	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
ASSETS			
Cash	1,428,640	1,357,420	71,220
Accounts Receivable	50,000	31,696	18,304
Total Assets	1,478,640	1,389,116	89,524
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITIES			
Accounts Payable	50,000	60,000	(10,000)
Payable to Province of Alberta Funds and Agencies	50,000	0	50,000
Total Liabilities	100,000	60,000	40,000
Fund Equities	1,378,640	1,329,116	49,524
Total Liabilities and Fund Equities	1,478,640	1,389,116	89,524

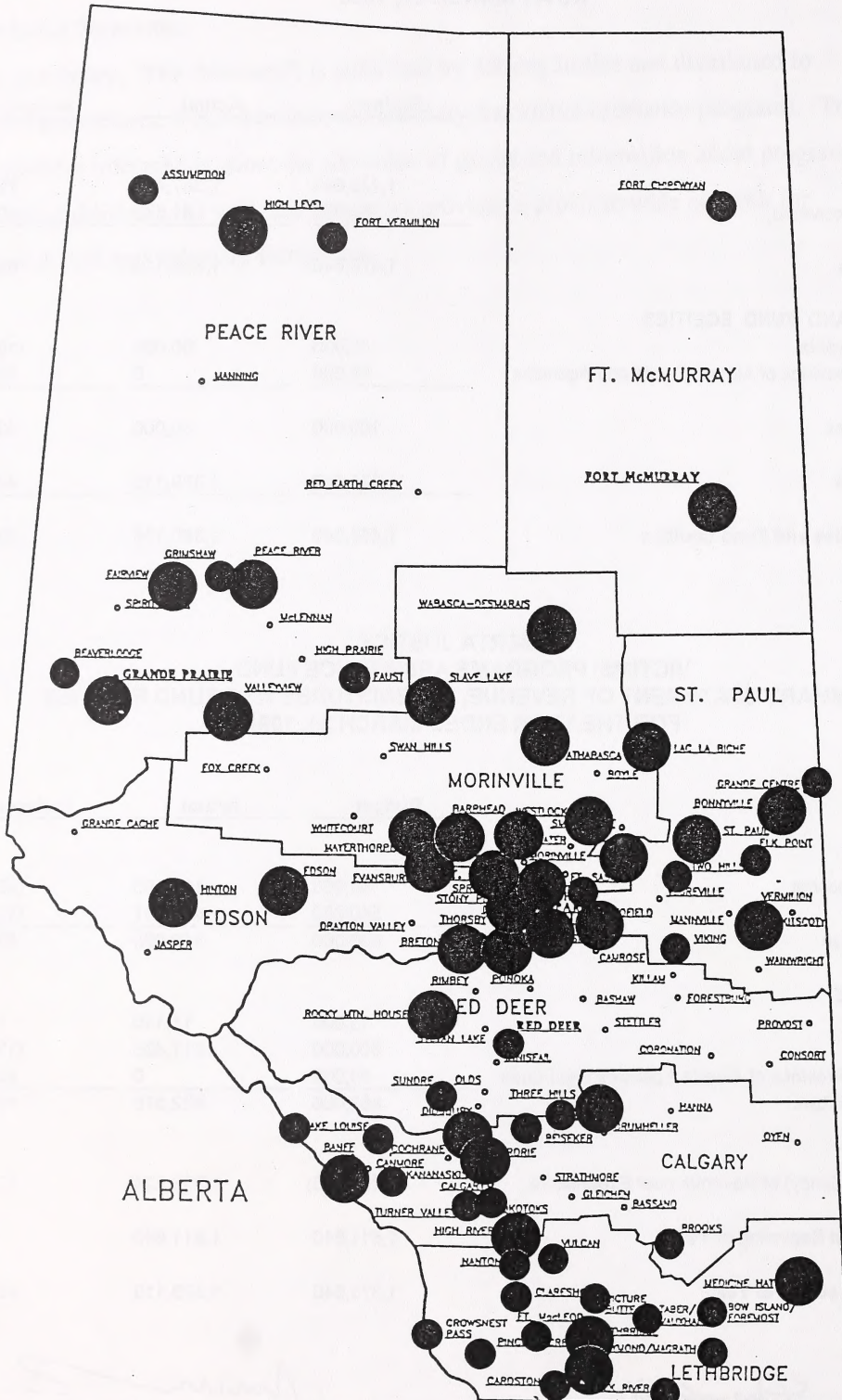
ALBERTA JUSTICE
VICTIMS' PROGRAMS ASSISTANCE FUND
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND FUND EQUITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1996

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
REVENUE			
Investment Income	90,000	112,195	(22,195)
Other	540,000	427,857	112,143
Total Revenue	630,000	540,052	89,948
EXPENDITURE			
Services	13,000	11,140	1,860
Grants	800,000	811,436	(11,436)
Transfers to Province of Alberta Agencies and Funds	50,000	0	50,000
Total Expenditure	863,000	822,576	40,424
FUND EQUITY			
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	(233,000)	(282,524)	49,524
Fund Equity at Beginning of Year	1,611,640	1,611,640	0
Fund Equity at End of Year	1,378,640	1,329,116	49,524


Senior Financial Officer


Deputy Minister

POLICE-BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



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